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July 14, 1999

Jane E. Henney, M.D.,
Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 14-71
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Commissioner Henney:

I understand the FDA is in the process of weakening the labeling requirements for irradiated food. As a person who purchases food, I like to be able to make informed choices regarding the products I purchase. In my home, it allows me to know which food, particularly spices and fresh produce may go bad sooner than non-irradiated food.

Food or foods containing ingredients that have been treated by irradiation should be clearly labeled. The statement should be easy to read and placed closely to the name of the food and accompanied by the radura, with a written explanation. If the food is not packaged, this information should be clearly displayed in plain view near the product. Phrases like "cold pasteurization" are misleading. The terms "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" should be retained because they accurately portray the irradiation process.

Please protect the consumers right to make informed choices and not the companies desire to be secretive. We have a right to know how our food has been processed. We would thank you for ensuring that labeling requirements are strengthened, not weakened.

Sincerely,



Dana Cunningham
Member of the Ypsilanti Food Cooperative
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